

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03795 131026Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9221

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 3795

FOLLOWING SENT INFO TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI AND PORT LOUIS MARCH 12
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03795

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SE, UK, XO, PFOR, MP

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES INDEPENDENCE TALKS

1. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AT FCO SIR DUNCAN
WATSON TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON MARCH 11 THAT MANCHAM
AND RENEE, PLUS LARGE DELEGATION, WOULD BE IN LONDON FOR
INDEPENDENCE TALKS MARCH 14 TO 27. WATSON ADDED THAT
WHILE TALKS COULD BE CONCLUSIVE, THERE ARE POLITICAL
PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT WELL REQUIRE SECOND SERIES OF TALKS
BEFORE DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE CAN BE AGREED ON. BRITISH
EXPECT, FOR INSTANCE, THAT RENEE MAY DEMAND ANOTHER ELEC-
TION BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, WHICH WOULD, OF COURSE, BE
STRONGLY RESISTED BY MANCHAM. ON QUESTION OF ALDABRA,
FARQUHAR AND ISLE DES ROCHES, WATSON SAID BRITISH WOULD
TAKE NO POSITION. (EMBOFFS AGAIN INFORMED HIM OF US
OPPOSITION TO RETURN.) WATSON EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT
RENEE WOULD RAISE ISSUE AND THAT MANCHAM MIGHT WELL SUP-
PORT HIM. THIS, OF COURSE, COULD CAUSE DELAY IN AGREEING
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PAGE 02 LONDON 03795 131026Z

ON INDEPENDENCE, WATSON SAID, BECAUSE BRITISH WOULD HAVE

TO CONSULT WITH USG. ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT BRITISH HAVE STILL NOT RESOLVED AMONG THEMSELVES IS FUTURE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SEYCHELLES. WATSON SAID THAT BRITISH DO NOT SEEK ANY BASE RIGHTS IN SEYCHELLES, BUT MIGHT WISH TO INCLUDE ONE PROVISION IN INDEPENDENCE AGREEMENT COMMITTING SEYCHELLES TO DENY BASE RIGHTS PRESUMABLY WITHOUT CONCURRENCE OF BRITISH.

2. COMMENT: BRITISH OBVIOUSLY HOPING FIRST ROUND OF TALKS MIGHT BE CONCLUSIVE, BUT ARE BY NO MEANS COUNTING ON IT. THEY HOPE TO GET AROUND ELECTION QUESTION BY CONVINCING RENEE SEYCHELLOIS SHOULD BE LOOKING TO LONG TERM, RATHER THAN RELATIVE ADVANTAGES BETWEEN PARTIES AT GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE. END COMMENT.

RICHARDSON

UNQUOTE RICHARDSON

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